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Title:

Radio Broadcast - Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill

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C.O. Theme - Opening and hold under for
ANN: This is a broadcast by the Premier of South Australia,
Mr. Don Dunstan, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

GOOD EVENING:

THIS WEEK WILL SEE THE SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL ON ITS WAY TO THE UPPER HOUSE, WHERE THE VESTED INTERESTS THAT ARE REPRESENTED THERE BY LCL MEMBERS WILL HAVE THEIR CHANCE TO ALTER ITS PROVISIONS. IN FACT, ON PAST BEHAVIOUR, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS MAY EVEN CHUCK THE BILL OUT - MAY REFUSE TO PASS IT AT ALL.

AND IT IS POSSIBLE, EVEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE, TO PREDICT THE KINDS OF DISTORTIONS AND HUMBUG THAT WILL BE DIRECTED AT THE BILL'S PROVISIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID IN THE LOWER HOUSE BY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT AT ALL BACKWARD IN PROTECTING THE EXTREMELY WEALTHY PEOPLE OF THIS STATE AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERYONE ELSE. AND THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE - THE LIBERAL COUNTRY LEAGUE IS BACKED BOTH SOCIALLY AND FINANCIALLY BY THE EXTREMELY WEALTHY. IT HAS AN IN-BUILT HATRED OF EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND PRIVILEGE.

BUT OF COURSE, THE REAL TRAGEDY IN THIS POSITION IS THAT THE SUFFERING FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WILL BE VERY REAL INDEED IF THE NEW SUCCESSION DUTIES ARE NOT GATHERED. THE BILL PROVIDES THE FAIREST SUCCESSION DUTIES IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE ORDINARY HOUSEHOLDER, WIDOW AND SMALL BUSINESSMAN. IT PROVIDES REAL RELIEF FOR THE HARD PRESSED RURAL SECTOR. WHAT IT DOESN'T DO IS MAKE THESE PEOPLE PAY MORE SUCCESSIONS THAN THEY ARE ABLE TO - THE REAL INCREASES HAVE TO BE MADE ON THOSE RICH SUCCESSIONS THAT CAN AFFORD IT.

NOW THE LIBERAL COUNTRY LEAGUE DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE ANY RELIEF TO THE SMALL INVESTOR. THEY WANT HIM TO PAY AS MUCH AS HE IS PAYING NOW. AND WORSE THAN THIS, ALTHOUGH THE BILL PROVIDES THAT IMPOSTS ON LARGER ESTATES WILL STILL NOT BE AS HIGH AS INTERSTATE, AND ALTHOUGH WE WON'T BE COLLECTING AS MUCH IN SUCCESSION DUTIES AS GOVERNMENTS DO IN THE TWO KEY STATES OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, THE LIBERAL COUNTRY LEAGUE WOULD STILL RATHER SEE NO INCREASE ON THE WEALTHY THAN ALLOW THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF THIS DUTY THE MONIES VITALLY NEEDED TO BUILD ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE FACT IS, THAT IF THE LIBERAL COUNTRY LEAGUE MEMBERS IN THE UPPER HOUSE TAMPER SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE BILL, SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL INCREASE ITS DEFICIT BY SOME \$3½M. WE WOULD LOSE THE \$1½M. THE BILL IS DESIGNED

TO RAISE, AND THE GRANTS COMMISSION, WHICH REQUIRES THAT OUR STATE TAXATION MEASURES ARE THE SAME AS IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, WOULD TAKE AT LEAST ANOTHER \$1 $\frac{3}{4}$ M. OFF OUR GRANT. IT WOULD MEAN THAT NOT ONLY WOULD WE NOT GET FAIR SUCCESSION DUTIES FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET AND FOR WIDOWS, SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS, BUT SOUTH AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT MONEY TO CONTINUE EVEN OUR PRESENT PROJECTED PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS. WE WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE THE BUILDING OF THESE ESSENTIAL SERVICES - NOT EXPAND THEM AS PLANNED IN THE BUDGET.

AT THE MOMENT THE MOST UNJUST ASPECT OF SUCCESSION DUTIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS THAT FRAGMENTATION OF PROPERTY PASSING TO AN INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARY MEANS A CONSEQUENT AVOIDANCE OF DUTY IN LARGER ESTATES AND PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH INCLUDE LIQUID ASSETS.

THE MAN OF MODERATE MEANS AND THE FARMER OPERATING IN A MODEST WAY IS NOT ABLE TO BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY BY THE VARIOUS DEVICES OF AVOIDANCE, EVEN IF HE WERE IN AN ECONOMIC POSITION TO LEARN OF THEM. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THIS ASPECT OF PRESENT SUCCESSION DUTIES MUST BE ALTERED TO ENSURE THAT PERSONS WITH CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY AND ACCESS TO SPECIALISED ADVICE DO NOT REMAIN IN A PRIVILEGED POSITION.

IF THEY DO, IT WILL LEAD TO THE MULTIPLICATION OF INEQUITY FOR TAX PAYERS, OF MODEST MEANS.

AND THE POSITION IS CLEAR: DEFICIENCIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REVENUE MUST BE MADE UP, OTHERWISE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO STARVE OUR ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES.

IT MUST THEREFORE BE MADE UP FROM THOSE MORE AFFLUENT SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH AT THE MOMENT PAY DUTIES AT A RATE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN IN THE OTHER AUSTRALIAN STATES.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A CASE FOR A SPECIAL GRANT BEFORE THE GRANTS COMMISSION.

GOOD NIGHT.

11/11/70.

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